

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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TOSEC 65

FOR ASST. SECY. HABIB FROM DEP. ASST. SECY. MILLER

FOLLOWING SENT USUN NEW YORK SECSTATE WASHDC INFO MOSCOW
TOKYO FROM PHNOM PENH 17 NOV 74:

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SUBJECT: KHMER AT 1;TH UNGA: USSR

REF: USUN 5091

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TASS
CORRESPONDENT KOSSINSKY'S ARTICLE DATED NOV 10, WHICH WAS SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY IMPORTANT EVENTS
ON THE DOMESTIC MILITARY OR POLITICAL FRONT, THE ATTENTION
OF LOCAL AND FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN THE KHMER CAPITAL
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CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON THE UNITED NATIONS, WHERE THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL FINALLY DISCUSS THE KHMER REPRESENTATION ISSUE ON NOVEMBER 19.

3. ACCORDING TO THE MAJORITY OF THE OBSERVERS, THE EVOLUTION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF A PROGRESSIVELY GREATER NUMBER OF MEMBER COUNTRIES NOW SHOWING MUCH MORE INTEREST IN THE SEARCH FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE CAMBODIAN CONFLICT RATHER THAN IN THE QUESTION OF KHMER REPRESENTATION AS IT HAS BEEN RAISED BY CONTINENTAL CHINA.

4. IT IS ALSO STRESSED THAT AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES THERE IS NOW A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE KHMER PROBLEM, AND AS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THIS TREND IS CITED THE MEETING IN OCTOBER AT THE UNITED NATIONS BETWEEN LONG BORET AND BOUTEFILKA.

5. THE SOVIET POSITION AT THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION ALSO HOLDS THE INTEREST OF MANY OBSERVERS. THAT POSITION IS DESCRIBED IN THE WEEKLY PUBLICATION "KHMER FEATURES" IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER: " WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A GOOD SOURCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS AMONG KHMERS WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS, AS WAS OFFERED BY THE GKR LAST JULY 9."

6. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION PHNOM PENH REPRESENTATIVES ALSO NOTE THAT IF THE SOVIET UNION HELPS SIHANOUK TO ENTER THE UNITED NATIONS IT WILL BY THIS ACT STRENGTHEN THE GROUP OF PRO-PEKING STATELLITES.

7. OBSERVERS IN THE KHMER CAPITAL GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT INDIA WILL MOST LIKELY VOTE FOR THE CHINESE DRAFT RESOLUTION FAVORING RECOGNITION OF THE GRUNK BY THE UNITED NATIONS, AND ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, INDIA WILL TAKE THIS ACTION "NOT OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR PEKING BUT RATHER BECAUSE THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT TO BREAK SOLIDARITY WITH CERTAIN NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT THIS DRAFT." LOCAL OBSERVERS FURTHERMORE BELIEVE THAT LAOS WILL NOT MERELY ABSTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THIS ISSUE BUT WILL IN THE END VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC," WHOSE POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA, HEAD OF THE LAO COALITION GOVERNMENT."

8. THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE CAMBODIAN MATTER IS MORE AND MORE CRITICIZED EVEN BY KHMER OFFICIALS IN PHNOM PENH. MANY KHMERS NOTE THAT THE

UNITED STATES IS ENTIRELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT COMPLICATED SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND THEY CRITICIZE DR. KISSINGER'S INACTIVITY IN RESOLVING THE CAMBODIAN CRISIS. IN PHNOM PENH IT IS EXPECTED THAT IN THE COURSE OF HIS NEXT VISIT TO PEKING IN DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR, DR. KISSINGER WILL OBTAIN POSITIVE RESULTS IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHINESE REGARDING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA. END TEXT.

9. COMMENT: JAPANESE COLLEAGUE HAD GIVEN ME TEXT OF KOSSINSKY'S ARTICLE, WHICH HE THOUGHT REFLECTED MODERATE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD KHMER PROBLEM. KOSSINSKY IS CONSIDERED SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL IN PHNOM PENH AND CLEARLY OUTRANKS REST OF SMALL SOVIET STAFF ACTING AS CARETAKERS AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY. WE HAVE MAINTAINED FRIENDLY SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH KOSSINSKY, WHO HAS REPUTATION HERE OF BEING FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO EFFORTS FIND COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO KHMER CONFLICT. WE DO NOT KNOW, HOWEVER, WHETHER HIS GENERALLY MODERATE ARTICLES SENT FROM PHNOM PENH ARE REPRODUCED IN SOVIET PRESS. DEAN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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